

A population of *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hb.) (Lep.: Psychidae) persisting in the Reading area

Last year I reported the presence of a colony of the bagworm moth *Dahlica triquetrella* at Lower Earley near Reading in Berkshire (*Ent. Rec.* **114**: 112-113). It was possible that the 17 larvae of this species found crawling on some local brick walls during the autumn of 2001 may have resulted from my rearing this species during 1997 and 1998. I had not seen it here during the previous decade, and speculated as to its persistence in subsequent years.

I can now report that greater numbers of larvae (24) were found on the same three lengths of walling during 2002, the first appearing on 23 August and the last on 4 November. Once again, larvae were found during periods of warm, dry and often sunny weather, between 09.00 and 20.30hrs. Other walls in the area were searched to ascertain the extent of this population, but so far it appears to be localised to these three walls alone. However, unlike 2001, larvae were found during the following winter and spring. Two were seen on 24 January and two on 31 January 2003. It was apparent that these individuals were no longer perambulating, as they had fixed their cases firmly to the brick surface ready for pupation.

Adult moths (15), emerged between the hours of 05.30 to 08.00 from 11 to 28 February 2003, and commenced ovipositing in their pupal cases in the manner described for this species (*Br. J. Ent. & Nat. Hist.* **12**:29-30). It is therefore apparent that a colony of this parthenogenetic moth now exists in the environs of Lower Early. No parasites were reared from these larvae, or from the larvae found during 2001. Further early instar larvae started to occur on the same walls during early August 2003.

I am unable to say for certain if this population is native to the Reading area or is an introduction. However, the absence of any parasites from reared examples tends to support the latter possibility, despite the extreme precautions taken to prevent this during the original 1997 and 98 rearings. Nevertheless, it is nice to think that the late Dennis O'Keeffe, who had an interest in this family of Lepidoptera, had a hand in the establishment this scarce species here by giving me the original material from his Orpington site that the moths were reared from in 1997 and 1998.— IAN SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 3AN. (E-mail: Sims@wreple.co.uk)

***Acleris logiana* (Clerk) (Lep: Tortricidae) – the first North Hampshire, VC12, records**

On the evening of 26 January 2003, RE noticed a small, off-white moth about 10mm in length at one of the bedroom windows of his house. Not recognising it he took a photograph, by the light of a table lamp and posted it onto the Internet discussion group "UKMoths". John Langmaid suggested, subsequently, that it should be set and kept, as it could be an interesting moth. Ben Smart suggested that it was *Acleris logiana* (from looking at European moth websites).

This posed a problem as RE had no equipment for setting the moth, but help was at hand from Paul Boswell, who collected the moth and Tony Dobson, who not only set the moth, but also took it to John Langmaid for confirmation. John kindly confirmed its identity and this was the first time it had been recorded in VC12. Until John discovered this species in South Hampshire (VC 11) in 1992 (*Ent. Gaz* **44**: 154), it was a moth known only from the Highlands of Scotland. On 26 April 2003 a group of lepidopterists, including MW, were trapping in a wood at the edge of Hook Common. The evening started with a torrential downpour, just as the traps were set, but then cleared up to allow trapping. MW was searching the trunks of some oak trees when he found what proved to be another example of *A. logiana* – the second for VC12. The identification was rapidly confirmed as Rob, Tony and Paul were by coincidence at the same event. Tony Dobson set this second specimen. Thanks are due to all those involved in the identification of these moths.– ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Calthorpe Park, Fleet, Hants, GU51 4EY (E-mail: r.edmunds@ntlworld.com) & MIKE WALL, 11 Waterloo Avenue, Basingstoke, Hants, RG23 8DL (E-mail: mike@bike2nature.co.uk).

Early butterfly dates in the Scottish Highlands in 2003

The April 2003 heat wave produced a number of early butterfly records in the Highlands. On 4 April a single Green-veined White *Pieris napi* (L.) visited *Primula dentata* flowers in our Muir of Ord garden. My previous earliest date was 9 April in 1974 at Torrin (O.S. grid reference NG 52) on the island of Skye.

The next day, 5 April, my wife and I visited Clash Wood (NH 507516), a local Scots pine and birch forest, as it seemed a likely habitat for the Kentish Glory. No *Endromis versicolora* (L.) were seen but, surprisingly, a female Common Blue *Polyommatus icarnus icarnus* (Rottemburg) was spotted sunning itself on the wide stony track at 12.50 GMT when the temperature was 18°C. After examining closely, it rose from the path and flew into the Scots pines. Quarter of an hour later and a couple of a hundred yards along the track, almost certainly another female was flying over the ling. I gave chase and had an excellent view of its upper-side as it came to rest on a young birch twig. This was an exceptionally early date for this species, my previous earliest being of a female on 30 May in 1968 at Ardmore (NC 15), NW Sutherland.

We visited the wood again on 7 and 10 April and later dates but did not see *icarnus* here again until 25 June when a pair were visiting bird's-foot trefoil flowers in hot sunshine (temp. 23°C). However, we were rewarded on both the April dates with early male Green Hairstreaks *Callophrys rubi* (L.). My previous earliest date for this species was 23 April in 1974 at Elgol (NG 51) on Skye.

Also on 10 April at least three male and a female Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* (L.) were found at Rosemarkie cliffs (NH 75) on the Black Isle, seventeen days before the previous earliest on 27 April in 1993 at Muir of Ord. The next occurrences were in our garden on 14 and 18 April, also early dates.